



## City of Boiling Spring Lakes

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Boiling Spring Lakes, NC 28461

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April 6, 2006

Mr. Pete Benjamin  
Ecological Services Supervisor  
United States Fish & Wildlife Service  
P O Box 33726  
Raleigh, NC 27636-3726

Re: Response to Your Letter Dated February 22, 2006

Dear Mr. Benjamin:

At the Regular Meeting of the Boiling Spring Lakes Board of Commissioners on April 4, 2006 a motion was passed by the Board to send this response to your letter dated February 22, 2006, a copy of which is enclosed.

It is the goal of the City of Boiling Spring Lakes to assist and work with the United States Fish & Wildlife Service in preserving the Red Cockaded Woodpecker habitat. We are supplying maps given to us by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and providing property owners, builders and developers in our city with the fact sheets and parcel lists you have provided to us. We answer their questions to the best of our ability and where uncertainty remains we refer the questions to your office.

We are currently investigating changes to our ordinances to require the preservation of the foraging areas. As one might envision, this effort must not be taken in haste as we respect the rights of property owners and we must be diligent in the exercise of drafting and passing ordinances.

The Board of Commissioners understands the US Fish & Wildlife Service's desire for the City of Boiling Spring Lakes to prepare a Habitat Conservation Plan. However, we do not believe we can use taxpayer funds to remedy cases for individual private property owners who are restricted in the use of their property due to the Endangered Species Act as it applies to the Red Cockaded Woodpecker. It is our position that these issues should be dealt with by your office on an individual basis with the affected property owners.

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, by

Joan G. Kinney, Mayor  
City of Boiling Spring Lakes

Copies to:

The Honorable Elizabeth R. Dole, United States Senate  
The Honorable Richard Burr, United States Senate  
The Honorable Mike McIntyre, United States Congress  
Brunswick County Commissioners

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